

✓ 249375

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:37 AM
To:
Subject: 2019-281-S

Dear Wayne J. Shealy,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Date: * 1/7/2019

Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2019-281-S

Protestant Information:

Name * Wayne J. Shealy

Mailing Address * _____

City, State Zip * Elgin, SC Phone * _____

E-mail _____

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of the Company that is the subject to this pending proceeding.
I am also a licensed professional civil engineer in the state of South Carolina.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I believe the Company has mislead the public in this matter. In the "FAQ's Regarding Filed Rate Request" on their website, they state: "Our rates are low compared to other utilities in the area. Even after this rate increase, the company's rates will be competitive with (if not lower than) neighboring systems...." This statement is not true. The SC Rural Infrastructure Authority in their 2019 Municipal Water & Sewer Rate Survey lists monthly sewer service charges in SC. Of the 216 municipalities and 72 other water/sewer authorities listed, only 7 (2.4%) had rates equal to or greater than the rate proposed by the Company. Additionally, the UNC School of Government's Environmental Finance Center found that average sewer rates in SC (as of Oct 2016) was \$35-\$38 and the average for Richland/Kershaw Co was \$38-\$40. The Company's rate increase request should be dismissed because they are misleading the public by making it sound like the proposed rates are at or below what other utilities charge.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I would consider it.

Signature Required: Wayne Shealy

Digitally signed by Wayne Shealy
Date: 2020.01.07
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